

Application No. 10/533,764  
 Amendment Dated: December 4, 2006  
 Reply to Office Action of October 2, 2006

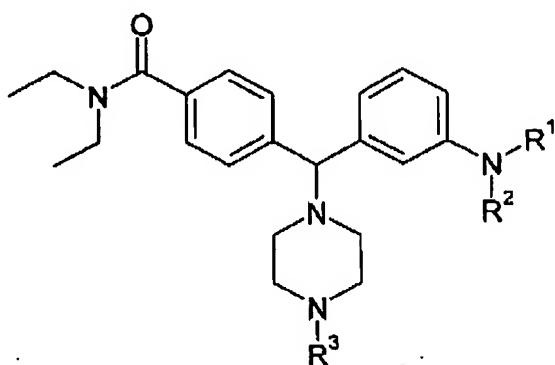
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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A compound of formula I, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:



wherein

R<sup>1</sup> is selected from C<sub>3-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>6-10</sub>aryl, C<sub>2-9</sub>heteroaryl, C<sub>6-10</sub>aryl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, C<sub>2-9</sub>heteroaryl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, C<sub>3-10</sub>cycloalkyl, C<sub>3-10</sub>cycloalkyl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, R<sup>8</sup>-C(=O)-, R<sup>8</sup>-S(=O)<sub>2</sub>-, R<sup>8</sup>-S(=O)-, R<sup>8</sup>-NHC(=O)-, R<sup>8</sup>-C(=S)- and R<sup>8</sup>-NH-C(=S)-, wherein R<sup>8</sup> is selected from C<sub>3-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>6-10</sub>aryl, C<sub>2-9</sub>heteroaryl, C<sub>6-10</sub>aryl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, C<sub>2-9</sub>heteroaryl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, C<sub>3-10</sub>cycloalkyl, and C<sub>3-10</sub>cycloalkyl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, wherein said C<sub>3-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>6-10</sub>aryl, C<sub>2-9</sub>heteroaryl, C<sub>6-10</sub>aryl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, C<sub>2-9</sub>heteroaryl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkyl, and C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkyl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl used in defining R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>8</sup> are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from -R, -NO<sub>2</sub>, -OR, -Cl, -Br, -I, -F, -CF<sub>3</sub>, -C(=O)R, -C(=O)OH, -NH<sub>2</sub>, -SH, -NHR, -NR<sub>2</sub>, -SR, -SO<sub>3</sub>H, -SO<sub>2</sub>R, -S(=O)R, -CN, -OH, -C(=O)OR, -C(=O)NR<sub>2</sub>, -NRC(=O)R, and -NRC(=O)-OR, wherein R is, independently, selected from -H, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl and phenyl;

R<sup>2</sup> is selected from -H and C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from halogen, -CF<sub>3</sub>, -OH, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkoxy, and halogen; and

R<sup>3</sup> is selected from -H, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl-O-C(=O)-, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkyl, and C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkyl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, wherein said C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl-O-C(=O)-, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkyl, and C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkyl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, halogenated C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, -NO<sub>2</sub>, -CF<sub>3</sub>, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkoxy and halogen.

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## 2. (original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein

R<sup>1</sup> is selected from C<sub>3-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>6-10</sub>aryl, C<sub>2-6</sub>heteroaryl, C<sub>6-10</sub>aryl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, C<sub>2-6</sub>heteroaryl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, C<sub>3-10</sub>cycloalkyl, C<sub>3-10</sub>cycloalkyl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, wherein said C<sub>3-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>6-10</sub>aryl, C<sub>2-6</sub>heteroaryl, C<sub>6-10</sub>aryl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, C<sub>2-6</sub>heteroaryl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, C<sub>3-10</sub>cycloalkyl, C<sub>3-10</sub>cycloalkyl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, halogen, -CF<sub>3</sub>, -OH, C<sub>1-3</sub>alkoxy, phenoxy, and halogen;

R<sup>2</sup> is selected from -H and C<sub>1-3</sub>alkyl; and

R<sup>3</sup> is selected from -H and C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl-O-C(=O).

## 3. (original) A compound according to claim 2,

wherein R<sup>1</sup> is R<sup>9</sup>-CH<sub>2</sub>-, wherein R<sup>9</sup> is selected from phenyl, pyridyl, thienyl, furyl, imidazolyl, triazolyl, pyrrolyl, thiazolyl, N-oxido-pyridyl, benzyl, pyridylmethyl, thienylmethyl, furylmethyl, imidazolylmethyl, triazolylmethyl, pyrrolylmethyl, thiazolylmethyl and N-oxido-pyridylmethyl, optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, halogen, -CF<sub>3</sub>, -OH, C<sub>1-3</sub>alkoxy, phenoxy and halogen; and

R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are hydrogen.

## 4. (original) A compound according to claim 3,

wherein R<sup>9</sup> is selected from benzyl, phenyl, pyridyl, thienyl, furyl, imidazolyl, pyrrolyl and thiazolyl, optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, halogen, -CF<sub>3</sub>, -OH, C<sub>1-3</sub>alkoxy, phenoxy, and halogen.

## 5. (original) A compound according to claim 4, wherein

wherein R<sup>9</sup> is selected from benzyl, phenyl, pyridyl, thienyl, furyl, imidazolyl, pyrrolyl and thiazolyl.

## 6. (original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein

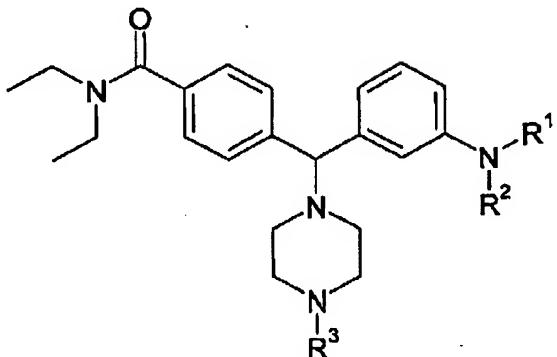
R<sup>1</sup> is selected from C<sub>3-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>3-10</sub>cycloalkyl, and C<sub>3-10</sub>cycloalkyl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, wherein said C<sub>3-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>3-10</sub>cycloalkyl, and C<sub>3-10</sub>cycloalkyl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, halogen, -CF<sub>3</sub>, -OH, C<sub>1-3</sub>alkoxy, phenoxy, and halogen;

R<sup>2</sup> is -H or C<sub>1-3</sub>alkyl; and

R<sup>3</sup> is -H, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkyl, and C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkyl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, wherein said C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkyl, C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkyl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, halogen, -CF<sub>3</sub>, -OH, C<sub>1-3</sub>alkoxy, phenoxy, and halogen.

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7. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula I, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:



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wherein

$R^1$  is selected from 1-propyl, 2-propyl, 1-butyl, 2-butyl, t-butyl, 2-methyl-1-propyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, cycloheptyl, cyclooctyl, and cyclononyl;

$R^2$  is selected from -H, methyl, ethyl, 1-propyl and 2-propyl; and

$R^3$  is selected from -H, methyl, ethyl, allyl, 3,3-dimethyl-allyl, cyclopropylmethyl, 2-methoxy-ethyl, and 3-methoxy-1-propyl.

8. (original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein

$R^1$  is selected from  $R^8\text{-C}(=\text{O})\text{-}$ ,  $R^8\text{-S}(=\text{O})_2\text{-}$ ,  $R^8\text{-S}(=\text{O})\text{-}$ ,  $R^8\text{-NHC}(=\text{O})\text{-}$ ,  $R^8\text{-C}(=\text{S})\text{-}$  and  $R^8\text{-NH-C}(=\text{S})\text{-}$ , wherein  $R^8$  is selected from  $C_{3-6}\text{alkyl}$ ,  $C_{6-10}\text{aryl}$ ,  $C_{2-6}\text{heteroaryl}$ ,  $C_{6-10}\text{aryl-C}_{1-4}\text{alkyl}$ ,  $C_{2-6}\text{heteroaryl-C}_{1-4}\text{alkyl}$ ,  $C_{3-10}\text{cycloalkyl}$ , and  $C_{3-10}\text{cycloalkyl-C}_{1-4}\text{alkyl}$ ; wherein said  $C_{3-6}\text{alkyl}$ ,  $C_{6-10}\text{aryl}$ ,  $C_{2-6}\text{heteroaryl}$ ,  $C_{6-10}\text{aryl-C}_{1-4}\text{alkyl}$ ,  $C_{2-6}\text{heteroaryl-C}_{1-4}\text{alkyl}$ ,  $C_{3-6}\text{cycloalkyl}$ , and  $C_{3-6}\text{cycloalkyl-C}_{1-4}\text{alkyl}$  are optionally substituted with  $C_{1-4}\text{alkyl}$ , halogen,  $\text{-CF}_3$ ,  $\text{-OH}$ ,  $C_{1-3}\text{alkoxy}$ , phenoxy, and halogen;

$R^2$  is -H; and

$R^3$  is selected from -H and  $C_{1-6}\text{alkyl-O-C}(=\text{O})\text{-}$ .

9. (original) A compound according to claim 8, wherein

$R^8$  is selected from phenyl, benzyl, phenethyl and cyclohexyl, wherein said phenyl, benzyl, phenethyl and cyclohexyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from methyl, methoxy and halogen.

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10. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1, wherein the compound is selected from:

N,N-diethyl-4-((S)piperazin-1-yl{3-[{(1,3-thiazol-2-ylmethyl)amino]phenyl}methyl]benzamide; N,N-diethyl-4-((R)-piperazin-1-yl{3-[{(1,3-thiazol-2-ylmethyl)amino]phenyl}methyl]benzamide; 4-[(S)-[3-(benzylamino)phenyl](piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide; N,N-diethyl-4-((R)-piperazin-1-yl{3-[{(thien-2-ylmethyl)amino]phenyl}methyl]benzamide; N,N-diethyl-4-((S)-piperazin-1-yl{3-[{(thien-2-ylmethyl)amino]phenyl}methyl]benzamide; N,N-diethyl-4-[(S)-{3-[{(2-furylmethyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]benzamide; 4-[(R)-[3-(benzylamino)phenyl](piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide; N,N-diethyl-4-[(R)-{3-[{(2-furylmethyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]benzamide; N,N-diethyl-4-((R)-piperazin-1-yl{3-[{(thien-3-ylmethyl)amino]phenyl}methyl]benzamide; N,N-diethyl-4-((S)-piperazin-1-yl{3-[{(thien-3-ylmethyl)amino]phenyl}methyl]benzamide; N,N-diethyl-4-[(R)-{3-[{(3-furylmethyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]benzamide; N,N-diethyl-4-[(R)-{3-[{(2-phenylethyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]benzamide; 4-[(R)-{3-[(cyclohexylmethyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide; N,N-diethyl-4-[(R)-piperazin-1-yl{3-[{4-trifluoromethyl}benzyl]amino}phenyl)methyl]benzamide; 4-[(R)-{3-[(cyclopentylmethyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide; 4-[(S)-{3-[(cyclohexylmethyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide; 4-[(R)-{3-[(cyclohex-1-en-1-ylmethyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide; N,N-diethyl-4-[(S)-{3-[{methyl(phenyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]benzamide; N,N-diethyl-4-[(S)-{3-[{ethyl(phenyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]benzamide; N,N-diethyl-4-[(R)-{3-[{methyl(phenyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]benzamide; N,N-diethyl-4-[(R)-{3-[{ethyl(phenyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]benzamide; 4-[(R)-{3-[(cyclohexylmethyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide; 4-[(R)-{3-[(cyclopentylamino)phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide; 4-[(R)-{3-[(cycloheptylamino)phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide; 4-[(R)-{3-[(cyclooctylamino)phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide; 4-[(R)-{3-[(cyclononylamino)phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide; 4-[(S)-{3-[(cyclohexylamino)phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide; N,N-diethyl-4-[(R)-{3-[{(4-methylphenyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]benzamide; N,N-diethyl-4-[(S)-{3-[{(4-methylphenyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]benzamide;

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4-[(R)-{3-[(3-chlorophenyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;  
4-[(S)-{3-[(3-chlorophenyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;  
4-[(R)-{3-[(2-fluorophenyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;  
4-[(S)-{3-[(2-fluorophenyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;  
4-[(R)-{3-(benzoylamino)phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;  
N,N-diethyl-4-[(R)-{3-[(phenylacetyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]benzamide;  
4-[(S)-{3-(benzoylamino)phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;  
N,N-diethyl-4-[(S)-{3-[(phenylacetyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]benzamide;  
N,N-diethyl-4-[(R)-{3-[(2-methyl-2-phenylpropanoyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-  
yl)methyl]benzamide;  
N,N-diethyl-4-[(R)-{3-[(3-fluorophenyl)acetyl]amino}phenyl](piperazin-1-yl)methyl]benzamide;  
4-[(R)-{3-[(cyclohexylacetyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;  
N,N-diethyl-4-[(R)-{3-[(3-phenylpropanoyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]benzamide;  
4-[(R)-{3-[(cyclohexylcarbonyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;  
N,N-diethyl-4-[(R)-{3-[(phenylsulfonyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]benzamide;  
4-[(R)-{3-[(benzylsulfonyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;  
N,N-diethyl-4-[(S)-{3-[(phenylsulfonyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]benzamide;  
4-[(R)-{3-[(anilinocarbonyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;  
4-[(R)-{3-[(anilinocarbonothioyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;  
N,N-diethyl-4-[(S)-1-piperazinyl[3-(propylamino)phenyl]methyl]benzamide;  
4-[(S)-[3-(dipropylamino)phenyl]-1-piperazinylmethyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;  
N,N-diethyl-4-[(R)-1-piperazinyl[3-(propylamino)phenyl]methyl]benz-amide;  
4-[(R)-{3-(dipropylamino)phenyl}-1-piperazinylmethyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;  
N,N-diethyl-4-[(S)-1-piperazinyl[3-[[4-(3-pyridinyl)phenyl]methyl]-  
amino]phenyl]methyl]benzamide;  
N,N-diethyl-4-[(S)-[3-[[4-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)phenyl]methyl]amino]-phenyl]-1-  
piperazinylmethyl]benzamide;  
N,N-diethyl-4-[(S)-1-piperazinyl[3-[(2-quinolinylmethyl)amino]phenyl]-methyl]benzamide;  
4-[(R)-{3-[(2,2-diphenylethyl)amino]phenyl}-1-piperazinylmethyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;  
4-[(R)-{3-[[4-(1,1-dimethylethyl)phenyl]methyl]amino}phenyl]-1-piperazinylmethyl]-N,N-  
diethylbenzamide;  
N,N-diethyl-4-[(R)-{3-[(4-phenoxyphenyl)methyl]amino}phenyl]-1-piperazinylmethyl]benzamide;  
N,N-diethyl-4-[(R)-{4-(2-propenyl)-1-piperazinyl}[3-(propylamino)-phenyl]methyl]benzamide;  
N,N-diethyl-4-[(R)-{4-(2-methoxyethyl)-1-piperazinyl}[3-(propylamino)-phenyl]methyl]benzamide;

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*N,N-diethyl-4-[(R)-[4-(3-methoxypropyl)-1-piperazinyl][3-(propyl-amino)phenyl]methyl]benzamide;*  
*4-[(S)-[3-(cycloheptylamino)phenyl](piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;*  
*4-[(S)-[3-(cyclooctylamino)phenyl](piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;*  
*N,N-diethyl-4-[(S)-[3-(3-phenylpropanoyl)amino]phenyl](piperazin-1-yl)methyl]benzamide;*  
*4-[(R)-(3-aminophenyl)[4-(2-propenyl)-1-piperazinyl]methyl]-N,N-diethyl- benzamide;*  
*4-[(R)-(3-aminophenyl)[4-(3-methyl-2-butenyl)-1-piperazinyl]methyl]-N,N-diethyl-benzamide;*  
*4-[(R)-(3-aminophenyl)[4-(cyclopropylmethyl)-1-piperazinyl]methyl]-N,N-diethyl- benzamide;*  
*N,N-diethyl-4-[(R)-[4-(2-propenyl)-1-piperazinyl][3-[(2-thienylmethyl)amino]phenyl]methyl]-benzamide;*  
*N,N-diethyl-4-[(R)-[4-(3-methyl-2-butenyl)-1-piperazinyl][3-[(2-thienylmethyl)amino]phenyl]methyl]-benzamide;*  
*4-[(R)-[4-(cyclopropylmethyl)-1-piperazinyl][3-[(2-thienylmethyl)amino]phenyl]methyl]-N,N-diethyl-benzamide;*  
*4-[(S)-[3-(cyclohexylamino)phenyl][4-(cyclopropylmethyl)piperazin-1-yl]methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;*  
*4-[(S)-[3-(cyclohexylamino)phenyl](4-propylpiperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;*  
*4-[(S)-[3-(cyclohexylamino)phenyl](4-ethylpiperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;*  
*4-[(S)-(4-allylpiperazin-1-yl)[3-(cyclohexylamino)phenyl]methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;*  
*4-[(S)-[3-[(cyclohexylcarbonyl)amino]phenyl](piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;*  
*4-[(S)-[3-[(cyclohexylacetyl)amino]phenyl](piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;*  
*4-[(S)-[3-[cyclohexyl(methyl)amino]phenyl](piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;*  
*4-[(R)-[3-[cyclohexyl(methyl)amino]phenyl](piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;*  
enantiomers thereof; and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

11-12. (Cancelled)

Claim 13. (previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

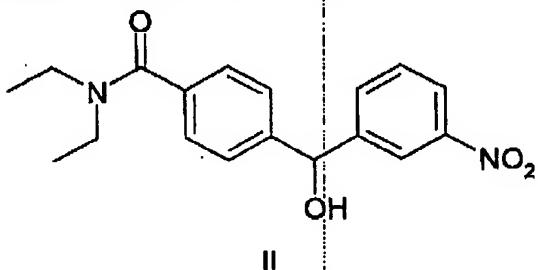
Claim 14. (previously presented) A method for the therapy of pain in a warm-blooded animal, comprising the step of administering to said animal in need of such therapy a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.

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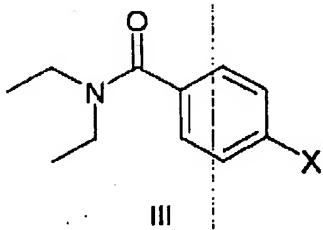
Claim 15. (cancelled)

Claim 16. (Previously Presented) A method for the therapy of anxiety in a warm-blooded animal, comprising the step of administering to said animal in need of such therapy a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.

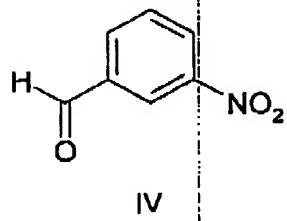
Claim 17. (original) A process for preparing a compound of formula II, comprising:



a) reacting a compound of formula III:



with a compound of formula IV



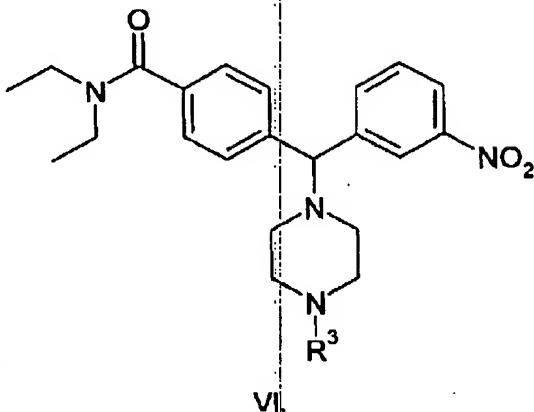
in the presence of a base having a pKa of more than 15

wherein

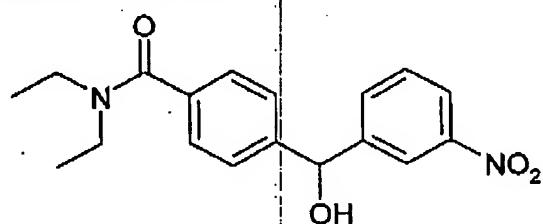
X is a halogen.

Claim 18. (original) A process for preparing a compound of formula VI:

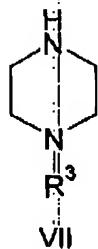
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comprising: reacting a compound of formula II



with a compound of formula VII



in the presence of  $\text{SOX}_2$  to form the compound of formula VI,

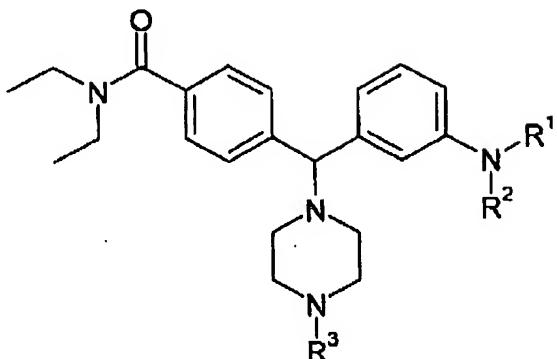
wherein

$R^3$  is selected from -H,  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl-O-C(=O)-,  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl,  $C_{3-6}$ cycloalkyl, and  $C_{3-6}$ cycloalkyl- $C_{1-4}$ alkyl, wherein said  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl-O-C(=O)-,  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl,  $C_{3-6}$ cycloalkyl, and  $C_{3-6}$ cycloalkyl- $C_{1-4}$ alkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl, halogenated  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl, - $\text{NO}_2$ , - $\text{CF}_3$ ,  $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy and halogen; and

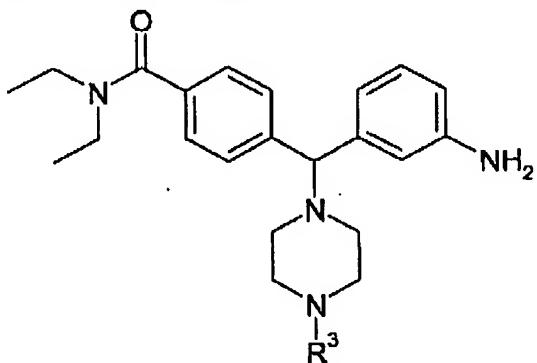
X is halogen.

Claim 19. (original) A process for preparing a compound of formula I,

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comprising: reacting a compound of formula VIII,



VIII

with R<sup>8</sup>-CHO in the presence of a reducing agent to form the compound of formula I:  
 wherein

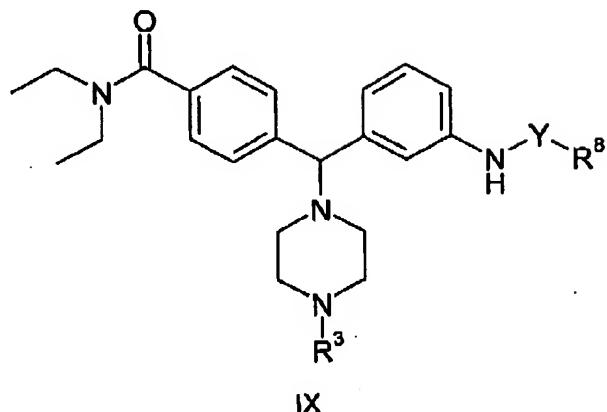
R<sup>1</sup> is R<sup>9</sup>-CH<sub>2</sub>-, wherein R<sup>9</sup> is selected from phenyl, pyridyl, thienyl, furyl, imidazolyl, triazolyl, pyrrolyl, thiazolyl, N-oxido-pyridyl, benzyl, pyridylmethyl, thienylmethyl, furylmethyl, imidazolylmethyl, triazolylmethyl, pyrrolylmethyl, thiazolylmethyl and N-oxido-pyridylmethyl, optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, halogen, -CF<sub>3</sub>, -OH, C<sub>1-3</sub>alkoxy, phenoxy and halogen;

R<sup>2</sup> is -H; and

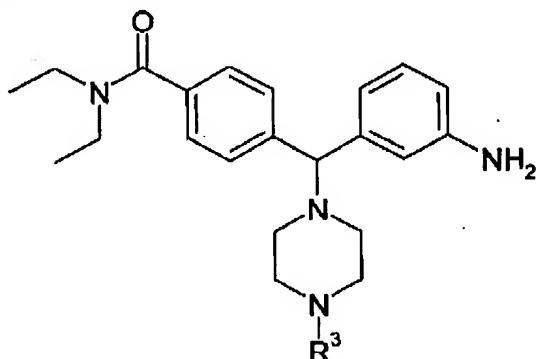
R<sup>3</sup> is selected from C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl-O-C(=O)-, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkyl, and C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkyl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, wherein said C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl-O-C(=O)-, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkyl, and C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkyl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, halogenated C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, -NO<sub>2</sub>, -CF<sub>3</sub>, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkoxy and halogen.

Claim 20. (original) A process for preparing a compound of formula IX,

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comprising: reacting a compound of formula VIII,



VIII

with R<sup>8</sup>-Y-X or R<sup>8</sup>-Y-O-Y-R<sup>8</sup> to form the compound of formula IX:

wherein

X is halogen;

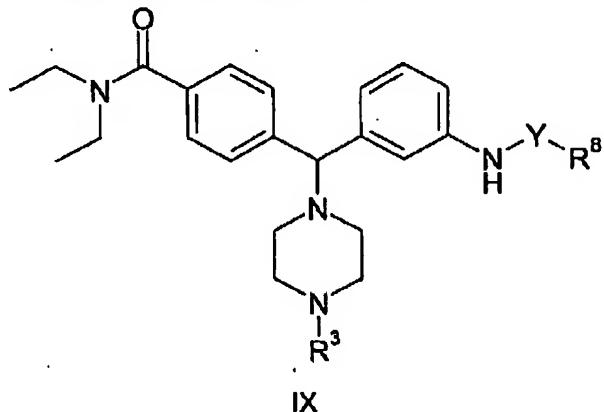
Y is selected from -C(=O)- and -S(=O)<sub>2</sub>;

R<sup>8</sup> is selected from C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>6-10</sub>aryl, C<sub>2-6</sub>heteroaryl, C<sub>6-10</sub>aryl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, C<sub>2-6</sub>heteroaryl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, C<sub>3-10</sub>cycloalkyl, and C<sub>3-10</sub>cycloalkyl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl; wherein said C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>6-10</sub>aryl, C<sub>2-6</sub>heteroaryl, C<sub>6-10</sub>aryl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, C<sub>2-6</sub>heteroaryl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkyl, and C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkyl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl are optionally substituted with C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, halogen, -CF<sub>3</sub>, -OH, C<sub>1-3</sub>alkoxy, phenoxy, and halogen; and

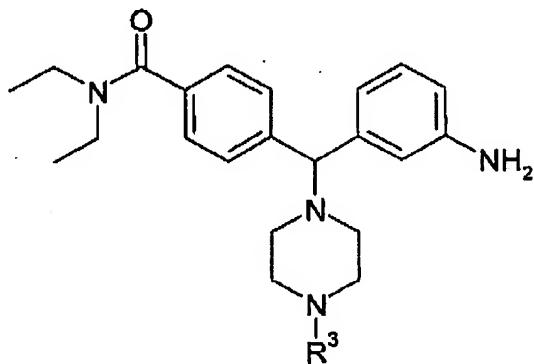
R<sup>3</sup> is selected from C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl-O-C(=O)-, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkyl, and C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkyl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, wherein said C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl-O-C(=O)-, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkyl, and C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkyl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, halogenated C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, -NO<sub>2</sub>, -CF<sub>3</sub>, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkoxy and halogen.

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**Claim 21. (original) A process for preparing a compound of formula IX,**



comprising: reacting a compound of formula VIII,



VIII

with R<sup>8</sup>-Z to form the compound of formula IX:

wherein

Z is selected from -NCO and -NCS;

Y is selected from -C(=O)NH- and -C(=S)NH-;

R<sup>8</sup> is selected from C<sub>3-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>6-10</sub>aryl, C<sub>2-6</sub>heteroaryl, C<sub>6-10</sub>aryl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, C<sub>2-6</sub>heteroaryl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, C<sub>3-10</sub>cycloalkyl, and C<sub>3-10</sub>cycloalkyl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl; wherein said C<sub>3-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>6-10</sub>aryl, C<sub>2-6</sub>heteroaryl, C<sub>6-10</sub>aryl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, C<sub>2-6</sub>heteroaryl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkyl, and C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkyl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl are optionally substituted with C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, halogen, -CF<sub>3</sub>, -OH, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkoxy, phenoxy, and halogen; and

R<sup>3</sup> is selected from C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl-O-C(=O)-, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkyl, and C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkyl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, wherein said C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl-O-C(=O)-, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkyl, and C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkyl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, halogenated C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, -NO<sub>2</sub>, -CF<sub>3</sub>, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkoxy and halogen.